

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

SAJ-01 /089 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:HGILMORE/JL

APPROVED BY EUR/EE:JABAKER,JR.

EB/TD - G.L. HUFFCUTT (SUBS)

USIA/IEE - G. CALLAWAY

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

DOD/DDA/ACSCE:ARRASMUSSEN

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P 061631Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, YO

SUBJECT: AFN INTERFERENCE WITH RADIO SARAJEVO

REF: BELGRADE 0975 AND PREVIOUS

1. YUGOSLAV FIRST SECRETARY VIDOVIC CALLED ON COUNTRY OFFICER FOR YUGOSLAVIA MARCH 5 TO ASK WHAT US HAD DONE TO SOLVE PROBLEM OF AFN INTERFERENCE WITH RADIO SARAJEVO. VIDOVIC STRESSED GOY VIEW THAT CESSATION OF INTERFERENCE, WHICH HAS CONTINUED FOR A NUMBER OF MONTHS, HAS BECOME AN URGENT MATTER. HE NOTED THAT MINISTER-COUNSELOR PETKOVIC HAD RAISED MATTER WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE AT LUNCHEON MEETING MARCH 1 AND STATED THAT AMBASSADOR GRANFIL WOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO RAISE IT WITH APPROPRIATE USG OFFICIALS SHOULD THIS PROVE NECESSARY.

2. COUNTRY OFFICER OBSERVED THAT US CHARGE JOHNSON HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BRIEFED FSFA NORTH AMERICA SECTION DIRECTOR STARCEVIC

DECEMBER 27 ON RESULTS OF LAST FALL'S INVESTIGATION OF TECHNICAL PARAMETERS OF THE THREE AFN TRANSMITTERS OPERATING ON 611 KHZ. AFTER SUMMARIZING RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION, COUNTRY OFFICER REMINDED VIDOVIC STARCEVIC HAD AGREED TO SEEK FURTHER INFORMATION ON NATURE OF CONTINUING AFN INTERFERENCE AND BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY BELGRADE.

3. COUNTRY OFFICER INFORMED VIDOVIC USG WILL MAKE CONCERTED EFFORT TO DETERMINE WHICH OF THREE AFN STATIONS USING 611 KHZ IS CAUSING INTERFERENCE. ONCE DETERMINATION IS MADE, USG WILL DECIDE WHAT REMEDIAL ACTION CAN BE TAKEN.

4. COUNTRY OFFICER CALLED VIDOVIC'S ATTENTION TO MARCH 1 ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TANJUG RELEASE CONTAINING EXCERPTS FROM YUGOSLAV RADIO-TV OFFICIAL'S STATEMENT WELCOMING GOY-GDR AGREEMENT ELIMINATING GDR INTERFERENCE WITH RADIO SARAJEVO. RELEASE CRITICIZED QUOTE LARGE SCALE END QUOTE AFN INTERFERENCE WITH RADIO SARAJEVO. USG, SAID COUNTRY OFFICER, DOES NOT FEEL THAT PUBLIC STATEMENTS CONTRIBUTE TO SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS WHICH ARE BEING DISCUSSED PRIVATELY BY OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

5. BEGIN FYI - COUNTRY OFFICER WAS CAREFUL NOT RPT NOT TO SPECIFY NATURE OF REMEDIAL ACTION WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN ONCE OFFENDING STATION IDENTIFIED. REPRESENTATIVES OF EUR/EE, EB/TD, USIA AND AFN WILL MEET MARCH 7 TO DISCUSS SCHEME FOR POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF OFFENDING STATION AS WELL AS POSSIBLE TYPES OF REMEDIAL ACTION. GIVEN ROLE OF AFN IN US FORCES ALERT PROCEDURES, RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM MAY PROVE DIFFICULT. END FYI.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RADIO BROADCASTING, RADIO FREQUENCY INTERFERENCE, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE044633
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HGILMORE/JL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740363/aaaacgyc.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BELGRADE 0975 AND PREVIOUS
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <09 JUL 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFN INTERFERENCE WITH RADIO SARAJEVO
TAGS: ETEL, YO, US, ARMED FORCES NETWORK-AFN
To: BELGRADE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005